were released to Andhra Pradesh for rural road construction under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) whereas the Planning Commission had originally sanctioned Rs. 90 crore for each of these years for Andhra Pradesh under this head;

(b) if so, the criteria followed while increasing the original sanction for Andhra Pradesh from Rs. 90 to 190 crores; and

(c) the details of factors responsible for such a huge increase in the original sanction?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in the year 2000-01 only. The Planning Commission allocated Rs.190 crore for Andhra Pradesh for that year and the amount was released by the Ministry of Finance as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in accordance with the allocation.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Funds demanded by Madhya Pradesh for PMGSY

†1398. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of amount Government of Madhya Pradesh has demanded for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Rural Development Fund in the meeting of Planning Commission convened of late at Jaipur; and

(b) The action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) In the 10th Five Year Plan Mid Term Appraisal Meeting held on 6th November 2004 at Jaipur, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh made a statement seeking annual allocation of Rs. 750.00 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Rs. 2000 crore per year as against the existing amount of Rs. 1250 crore for the Ministry of Rural Development Schemes.

(b) Funds for rural development programmes are provided annually within overall Budgetary allocations. PMGSY is primarily funded by the rural roads share of the diesel cess imposed under the Central Road Fund Act.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

As provided in the Central Road Fund Act, allocations are made Statewise. The allocation criteria gives weightage to need (measure of lack of connectivity) as well as Coverage (measure of length of existing network). The share of Madhya Pradesh has been fixed at Rs. 315 crores accordingly. However, States with high levels of lack of connectivity are also being assisted through funds obtained from World Bank/Asian Development Bank (ADB). ADB has approved a $ 400 million (Rs. 2000 crores) project for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Jobs to educated unemployed youth

1399. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made so far for providing job opportunities to the educated unemployed youths in the backward districts of the country; and

(b) the details of the number of the educated unemployed youths in these backward districts of the country have been benefited by getting employment during 2003-04 and 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements, through the State Governments a Self Employment Scheme and a Wage Employment Scheme namely, the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). The eligible educated unemployed youths in backward districts can avail of the assistance under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). During 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Oct. 2004), 8.96 lakh and 3.9 lakh total Swarojgaris have been assisted including educated unemployed rural youth in the country respectively under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY).

Improving traditional skills of village artisans

1400.SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of improving the traditional skills of